Walking in the Comfort of the Spirit.

(comfortable Christian life)

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Acts9:31 The Church .walking in the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

INTRO. Every deep student of the Bible knows that the word "comfort" and "comforter" as used in the Bible does not mean what it says. Then what did Jesus mean when he said, I will not leave you comfortless, or, When the Comforter is come?

What is the Bible meaning of the word?

Why is the Holy Ghost called The Comforter?

The word Paraclete inadequately translated

Parakaleo,

to call to one's side, to speak to

to console, to encourage, to strengthen

Paraklete,

One who pleads another's cause

A helper, succorer, aider, assistant

The English word, Comfort means more than merely to console.

From Latin, comfortare, to make strong, to strengthe

Shakespeare, For my sake, be comfortable(valiant)

God comfort him in his necessity

Bacon Light excelleth in comforting(strengthening)

One remaing modern use of comfort meaning to strengthen. In law it is an act of treason to aid, abet, or to comfort the enemy.

To comfort, in its original meaning, is to strengthen. And it is just that ,ostly in the Bible use of the word.

The Holy Ghost was called the Comforter because he was to inspire and strengthen the disciples. To strengthen them for the new Truth that they might valiantly face it, live it, and witness it to the world.

What a contrast is this meaning with our modern one of soft sympathy, of negative and helpless pity! Nowhere in the Bible do we fond the Spirit of God giving soft sympathy topeople. Always the Spirit strengthens for the performance of stern duty and the accomplishment of God-given tasks, however hard they may be.

The comfort of Christ for the afflicted was not mere pity. He did not sit down and weep with the stricken ones. He helped them by fitting them to help themselves. He made the weak strong. Be made the blind to see. He said to the paralitic, "Take up thy bed and walk." Christ always apealed to the will to act

"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy lade etc.

Christ does not promise to remove our burdens, but so to strengthen us that we may carry them without breaking under them.

The man who wished to follow Jesus but first he must go home to bury his father, and indulge in a seaso sorrow.

Jesus told him that that kind of sidulgence would but weaken him. I will give you the comfort that willstrengthen you. Come with me and my discipl Preach the glad tidings, go about doing good, minister to others in my name and you will be strengthened, your grief will be healed.

The deeper meaning of the beatitude-Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the graaners, those who have heavy burdens to bear, hard tasks to perform, great responsibilities to meet, for it is thus that men are made strong.

Real blessedness in life is not found by having a an easy time of it, but a hard time, with lots of work and exeercise.

Walking in the comfort of the Spirit!
On the trail with a pack. Measuring the miles by pancakes.
How many of us Xns can measure our achievemen in the strength of the Spirit?

The world is full of comfort, never more than today, but I question its quality, for the world is still full of unhappy, discouraged people.
Never did we need real comfort as we do now. The comfort that lifts men from hopeless despair to to self-condifence, the comfort that gives to sinking hearts a new power, a new faith a new courage to carry on.

This is the work of the Holy Ghost in the world. This shuld be the work of us Xns, too. Oh, what a wonderful thing it is to give real comfort to one

in need!

Comfort in this positive sense is not only the greatest need of every individual life but the greatest need of the social world as well.

NotToo much direction towards the relief of the sufferings of humanity

But And not enough attention given towards the prevention of suffering, the removal of the causes of our evils.

Dr. Crothers once used this illustration:

"Imagine a company of people standing on the shore and watching a ship break up with a great company of people exposed to death. Some might say, "Let us pray" Others might busy themselves with picking up the bodies as they were washed ashore, and seek to revive them and minister to them. But surely there would be some Greatheart present who would cry: "Let us put out a life-boat and save them before they are cast helpless into the angry sea."

Substituting the word "strength" for "comfort" in Paul's well-known passage we read:

Blessed be the God of all strength, who strengtheneth us in all our afflictions, that we may be able to strengthen them that are in any affliction thru the strength wherewith we ourselves have been strengthened of God."